

## AMENDMENT

### In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- of:
21. (Amended) A method for the manufacture of a tampon comprising the steps
- a) providing a web of liquid-permeable, thermoplastic apertured film, the web having opposed first and second edges and a length;
  - b) forming a line of weakness comprising perforations and scores extending substantially from the first edge to the second edge;
  - c) applying a force substantially parallel to the length of the web sufficient to separate an individual sheet from the web at the line of weakness;
  - d) positioning the individual sheet over an absorbent sliver;
  - e) attaching the individual sheet to the absorbent sliver;
  - f) forming the absorbent sliver into a tampon blank; and
  - g) compressing the tampon blank to form a substantially cylindrical, compressed tampon having a cover comprising the individual sheet.

## REMARKS

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-23 were originally filed in the present application and have been subjected to a restriction requirement. Claims 21-23 have been elected for prosecution, and these claims have been rejected. As outlined above, Claim 21 has been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-23 are pending in this application, however, only Claims 21-23 are currently under consideration.

The amendments to the Claim 1 are fully supported in the disclosure as originally filed. First, "unwinding a web" has been replaced with "providing a web" in order to clarify that the web that is provided need not be unwound from a supply roll, but that it may be provided in other manners, such as made on-line or festooned. Second, the